

Sleepy Hollow Police Departments

H.E.A.R.T.S.

Helping Embrace Autistic Residents

Together and Safely



Dear Parents and Residents,

Sleepy Hollow Police Departments H.E.A.R.T.S. Helping Embrace Autistic Residents Together and Safely is a program designed to gently and safely approach and/or find children and dependent adults with autism spectrum disorders. It is a voluntary way for parents or loved ones to provide information on their children or adult family members to first responders.

Residents with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASDs) are especially at risk. Many are unable to ask for help or express their needs. Some may not be capable of understanding individuals like police officers, fire fighters and others who are there to help them. When approached by First Responders, a person with autism may panic or react unpredictably. In other instances, high-functioning children and adults on the autism spectrum, who appear perfectly typical, may come across as rude and /or obstinate in unfamiliar situations. If misinterpreted by police, these behaviors may cause a minor incident to develop into a major situation.

1. Parents or guardians fill out the registration form and attach two photographs of the child or adult. They keep several copies for themselves to put in their wallets and vehicles.
2. The original photographs and the information on the child will be kept in a file specifically for children and adults with autism at the local police station for references when needed.

If a child/adult is found and the officers suspect ASD, they can immediate access the information in the file and see if the person matches up with a photograph. The officers would then have a better understanding of how to proceed. This program will be particularly helpful if the individual is non-verbal.

Our goal is to provide awareness to first responders and to prevent unfortunate circumstances from developing.

Thank you for this opportunity to work together to keep our residents with ASDs safer.





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Please fill out registration form and return to:

Sleepy Hollow Police Department

28 Beekman Avenue

Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591

Attention: Officer Wendy Yancey & Officer Kevin Moya



Please contact P.O. Yancey & P.O. Moya at (914) 631-0800
with any questions





H.E.A.R.T.S. Registration



Name of Person _____

Home Address _____

Alternate Emergency Contact #1 Name _____

Contact #1 Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Alternate Emergency Contact #2 Name _____

Contact #2 Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

School _____ School Phone # _____

Doctor's Name _____ Phone # _____

Allergies _____

Other Medical Conditions _____

Noticeable Behaviors _____

Verbal _____ Non-Verbal _____ Partially Verbal _____

Language spoken or understood _____

If Partial or Non-Verbal, Method of Communication (i.e. sign-language, picture board, written words) _____

Hearing Impaired (Partial or Fully) _____

Vision Impaired (Partial or Fully) _____ Glasses (yes or no) _____

Fears (Animals, Sounds, Flashing Lights etc.) _____

Favorite Things, Attractions, Places (Boats, bridges, water, parks, etc.) _____

Actions or Words to Avoid _____

Helpful Hints to Aid in Approaching _____

I authorize release of my child's personal information to the police to be kept on file in the event of an emergency.

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

Date: _____

Please attach a recent photo

